



Bible Student's Notebook™

The Herald of His Grace

Presenting *every man* perfect in Christ Jesus. Colossians 1:28

Volume XIV
Issue 338

All Difficulties Removed

by — E.W. Bullinger (1837-1913)

HOW CAN THOSE WHO ARE “blessed with all spiritual blessings in Christ” (Ephesians 1:3); who are “chosen in Him before the foundation [overthrow] of the world” (Ephesians 1:4); who are “accepted in the Beloved” (Ephesians 1:6); who have in immediate prospect the blessed promise of a prior resurrection or *exanastasis*, that resurrection out from among the dead, and a “calling on high” by Him (Philippians 3:14); who have their political status already, now, existing in the heavens, from whence we look for the Savior; not to judge us but to change us; not merely to raise us, and clothe us upon with spiritual bodies, but to transform our vile bodies and make them like unto His Own glorious body (Philippians 3:20-21); who are “perfect in Christ Jesus” (Colossians 1:28); who have been “made meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the holiest of all,” in the light of the heavenly Shekinah (Colossians 1:12); who “have the redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness [freedom] of sins” (Colossians 1:14); who “are complete in Him” (Colossians 2:10); to whom He says, “having forgiven you all trespasses” (Colossians 2:13) – how, we ask, can there be necessity for such to appear before the judgment-seat of Christ to be judged in respect of any imaginable thing whatsoever? Impossible.

Yet all of this wondrous standing, given to us in the riches and glory of His grace, is made of none effect, and is utterly lost to those who force



themselves back into a position which obtained in a Dispensation which has passed away.

What despite is thus done to the grace of God! What loss is sustained by the doers thereof! What difficulties are thus created and thrust into the Word of God, and what vain and ceaseless efforts are made to get them out!

Whereas, once we rightly divide the precious “Word of Truth” according to its times and Dispensations, then not only are all of these difficulties removed from the Scriptures (difficulties which are the subject of the questions put by most inquirers), but we are free to learn something of the peace of God and the grace of God; what He has made Christ to be unto us, and what He has made us to be in Him.

The Foundations of Dispensational Truth
Bible Student's Press (2011 Reprint), pp. 124-125.

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Bible Student's Notebook™

Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal

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This free weekly electronic publication (52 times a year) is dedicated to:

- the proclamation of the riches of God's abundant, exceeding grace (Romans 5:20; 11:6; Ephesians 1:7);
- the affirmation of God's purpose to save all mankind through the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ (I Timothy 2:3, 4; 4:10; Titus 2:11);
- the "preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began" (Romans 16:25);
- true freedom and liberty apart from law (Galatians 5:1);
- the organic nature of the church, the Body of Christ (I Corinthians 12);
- the distinct message and ministry of Paul, the apostle to the nations (Romans 11:13);
- the importance of receiving all whom Christ has received (Romans 14-15);
- the recovery of rich Biblical truth that has too long remained hidden under the veils of traditionalism, prejudice, misunderstanding, and fear (Mark 7:7, 13);
- the completeness of the believer in Christ (Colossians 2:10), with:
 - total freedom from sins (Colossians 1:14);
 - identity in His death, burial, and resurrection (Romans 6);
 - adult sonship position (Galatians 4).

This publication is a joint effort of a few members of the body of Christ. It is a product of our individual lives and ministries together. We do not claim infallibility for its contents. Our readers are asked to be as the Bereans and search the Scriptures (Acts 17:10-11; I Thessalonians 5:21).

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Remember that it is our responsibility as husbands and fathers to take the truths we learn from God's Word, the truths that we hold dear, and impart them to our families.

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Strictly Personal

I must apologize to our longtime BSN readers. In the past I used to have regular editorial where I would give personal updates. When we became a weekly, with the increased load of business, ministry, and family care, including that of my aging mother, I allowed this feature to slowly go by the wayside. I often have had readers who told me that this was the first part of the BSN that they read, because it allowed them to stay up to date with me somewhat on a more personal level.

Worries Concerning 2012

Many are anxious about this year. Some, because of the ancient Mayan calendar, are concerned that the last day of history will be December 21, 2012. This doomsday "end" has no merit, as God did not vest the details of His plans with the Mayans but in the Scriptures alone. That the last month of this year is the "end," could not be further from the truth. God has much left in His plans for the earth. Place *no* merit in archeology coming from heathen societies.

Another reason that many are anxious this year is that it is a US Presidential election year. Those of us who know and realize that Father is in charge of all who rule can trust Him in such a restless year.

We must never forget that *"the most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomsoever He will"* (Daniel 4:17, 25), and that *"He does according to His will ... among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can restrain His hand"* (Daniel 4:35). It is God Who rules *"over all the kingdoms of the heathen"* (II Chronicles 20:6).

We know that *"the king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water: He turns it wherever He will"* (Proverbs 21:1); and, in fact, *"He is a great King over all the earth"* (Psalm 47:2).

God rules over all nations, establishing their times and boundaries. The who, how, when and where are all determined by Him for His Own purposes.

[God] has made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation (Act 17:26).

Upcoming Book on Government

Speaking of the upcoming Presidential election, we are proofing the draft for my new book on the subject of nationalism. This book is an important one for me, and has been over fifteen years in the making.

In 1996 I published a preliminary work entitled, *Human Government: Where Do We Fit In?* For the past three U.S.-Presidential-election years I had desired to publish an enlargement of it. Father, of course, knowing better than I, had other plans. Although the main thrust of this new book is the same, the ensuing years have added great fullness and dimension to it.

Presidential elections press on our hearts the folly of mankind, demonstrated for us by Father, with so many frantically and passionately involved in their search for a national savior. I should know: many years ago I used to play my own active role in the process.

To me, Father's humor appears to be shining through more than ever this year. As I write these words there are three leading candidates contending for President Obama's seat. "Politics makes strange bedfellows" certainly rings true in this situation. It is so amusing to watch "Evangelical Christians" busy courting two Roman Catholics and a Mormon in an attempt to save them from a "Muslim." I can't help but chuckle every time I think of it.

It is my prayer to Father that my new book, *World Affairs and National Politics – and the High Calling of God in Christ Jesus*, will comfort many who are caught up in Gentile currents.

Two More of My Books

Almost Ready to Order

I also have two other books that should be available before the one on Government. Lord willing, next week we should have in stock *God's Holy Nation – Israel and Her Earthly Purpose*, followed shortly on its heels by *Being OK with Not Being OK – Embracing God's Design for You ... and Everyone You Know (and Don't Know)*. Watch the back page of the next two issues of the BSN for details.

Until next week, always your brother,

Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Are Yahweh and Jesus the Same?

Yahweh Speaks to the Messiah

by — André Piet

Let me, for the most obvious answer to this question, refer to Psalm 110. There is no passage to be found in the entire Hebrew Bible that is so often quoted in the “New Testament” as this Psalm. This eminently Messianic Psalm begins with,

*The averring of Yahweh to my Lord [adoni]:
Sit at My right until I should set Your enemies
as a stool for Your feet (Psalm 110:1, CLV).*

Here we read of the invitation of Yahweh to “my Lord,” to sit at His right-hand. “My Lord” here is none other than the Messiah, the Son of David, as is abundantly evident (e.g. Matthew 22:42-45; Acts 2:34; Ephesians 1:20; I Corinthians 15:25; Hebrews 1:13; 10:12-13).

Later in Psalm 110 (:4), Yahweh swears that this exalted Messiah will be Priest after the order of Melchizedek. This name takes us back to Genesis 14:18-20, where we read of the King of Salem, who was also a priest of God, the Most High. So will be the Messiah: not only King, but also Priest of the Most High. All of this would just be nonsense if we assumed that Yahweh



and the Messiah are the same Person.

The distinction in Psalm 110 between Yahweh God, and on the other hand, the Lord, is consistently maintained in the “New Testament.” Just think of the salutation in virtually all of the epistles, where we read, “*grace and peace from **God our Father** AND of the **Lord Jesus Christ**.*” Concisely, Paul explains in I Corinthians 8:6,

*Nevertheless for us there is **one God, the Father**, out of Whom all is, and we for Him, AND **one Lord, Jesus Christ**.*

THE IMAGE OF GOD

If Scripture is so clear in distinguishing between the *one God* and the *Lord Jesus Christ*, why is it that people identify these two Persons to be the same? At first sight, the strange answer is that the Scripture itself sometimes leads us into this identification. The problem is that most people have no idea what is hiding behind this.

(see **YAHWEH**, page 3080)



The Church Which Is His Body, and The Bride the Lamb's Wife

We have reprinted a grand work on the subject of “the Body” in contrast to “the Bride” by the late J.H. Kessler.

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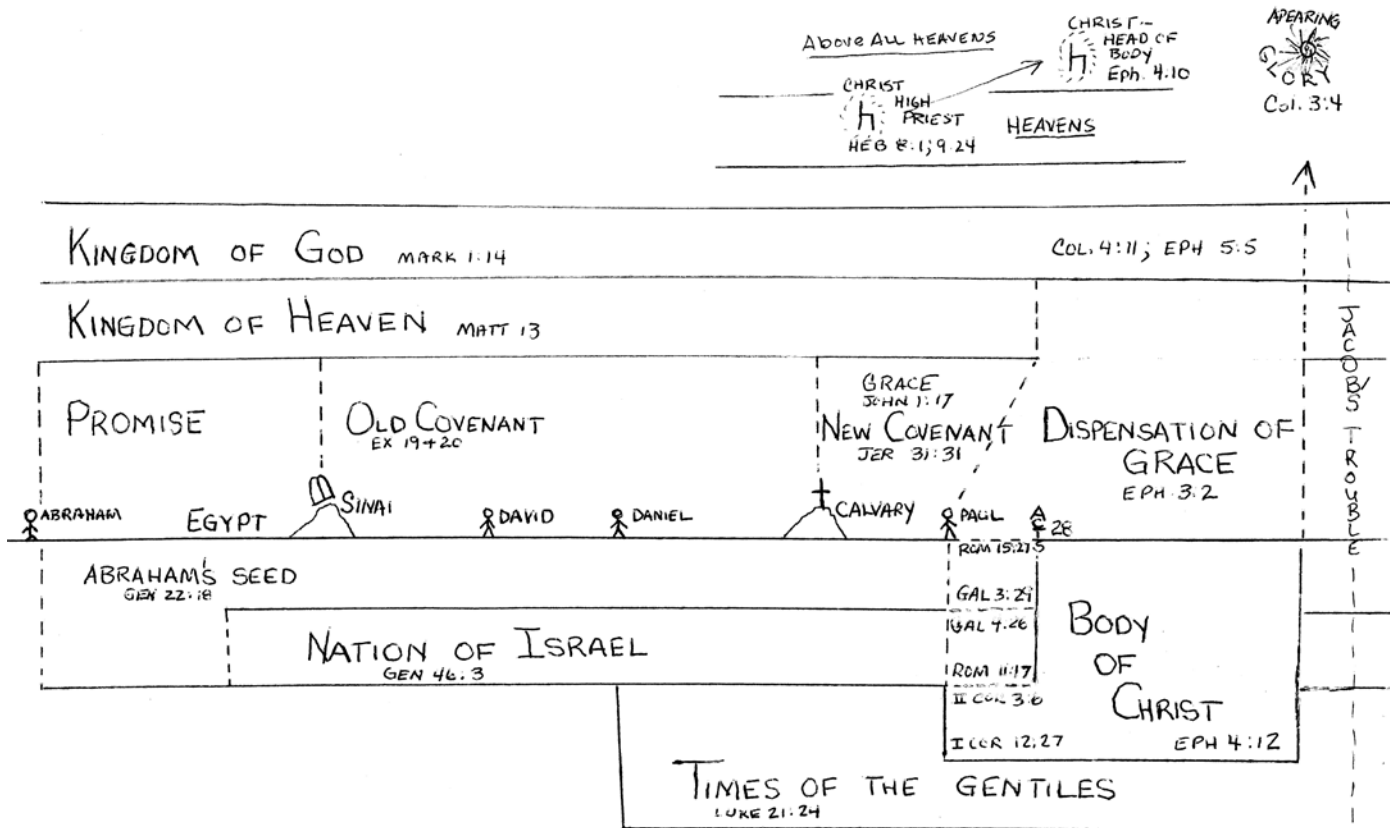
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Timeline of Distinctions

Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr. 1986



The Law: Could It Give Life?

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

HOW THE LAW COULD GIVE LIFE

Hypothetically, the law could give life *if* men kept it (Leviticus 18:5; Ezekiel 20:11, 13, 21; Matthew 19:17; Romans 10:5). However, this keeping of the law had to be perfect (Galatians 3:10; James 2:10); and certainly no man, except Christ, ever kept the law perfectly (Romans 3:23). Actually, then, the law could save no sinner (Romans 3:20; Acts 13:39; Galatians 3:11).

WHY THE LAW WAS UNABLE TO SAVE MEN

Why was the law unable to save men? It was not that there was a defect in the law (Psalm 19:7; Romans 7:12). Rather, the fatal weakness was in man (Romans

8:3; Hebrews 8:7-8), and the law's demands could not be relaxed to accommodate the weakness of men (Galatians 3:21; Romans 2:11-12).



THE DIVINE PURPOSE IN GIVING THE LAW

The law was added because of transgressions (Galatians 3:19); it was enacted for the lawless and ungodly (I Timothy 1:9-10), giving men the recognition of sin (Romans 3:20). It shut every mouth (Romans 3:19), while actually making the offense of it to increase (Romans 5:20). It was given to bear witness prophetically and typically of salvation by grace (Romans 3:21) and to lead us to the Lord Jesus Christ (Galatians 3:24-25).

YAHWEH (continued from page 3078)

The Son of God, according to Scripture, is the “*image of the unseen God*” (Colossians 1:15). The Greek word for “*image*” is *icon*. An *icon* is a presentation, or representation. So, we say, pointing to a coin, that it is the Queen (cf., Matthew 22:20), even though everyone understands that this is not literally true. It is a *picture* of the Queen. Such a figure of speech is correctly called a metaphor. Is the Lord Jesus Christ God? Yes, but not literally. He is the *image* of God. In theology, ignorance about this has led to the most complex reasoning, with the result that we are stuck with concepts that no one understands and terms that Scripture does not know, but are the ABCs in orthodox theology. Just think of expressions such as “trinity,” “one being and three persons,” “God the Son,” “two natures,” etc. However much these terms are canonized, they, nevertheless, merely are all “*words of human wisdom*.”

THE NAME ABOVE EVERY NAME!

Because the Son is the “*image of the unseen God*,” we should also expect metaphorical language in Scripture. So we read on the one hand that, in the future, the Messiah will appear to the tribes of Israel on the Mount of Olives (Revelation 1:7; Acts 1:11); but when

we turn to Zechariah 12:10 and 14:3-4, we read that it is Yahweh Who will appear to them. Is that a contradiction? No, because the Messiah is the *image of God*. To Him is given “*the Name above every name*” (Philippians 2:9); the Name of Yahweh! Thus Paul in Philippians 2 can boldly quote Isaiah 45:23, where Yahweh declares that every knee will bow and every tongue will swear to Him – but note how Paul shows,

That in the name of Jesus every knee should be bowing, celestial and terrestrial and subterranean, and every tongue should be acclaiming (Philippians 2:10-11).

Isn't that amazing? Isaiah speaks of Yahweh, before Whom every knee will bow, while Paul speaks about the name of Jesus. Why? Answer: The name of Jesus refers to Yahweh. After all, Jesus means *Yahweh saves*! How does Yahweh save? Through the Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, at the consummation of the eons, from every mouth will sound forth the song of praise,

Jesus Christ is Lord, for the glory of God, the Father! (Philippians 2:11).

Translated from Dutch by Peter Feddema



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Who Is a Savior?

by — Wim Janse

There is a lot of confusion about the question, “Does the salvation, achieved by Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary, need any addition?” Do we have to do something on top of what Jesus did? Do we have to “choose” or “accept” in order to get



it “working”? Is Jesus the Savior, or do we save ourselves by what we do?

Below are two descriptions of a savior: Savior “A” and Savior “B”. It is for you to decide what type Jesus is.

SAVIOR “A”

... who asks, “Do you want to be saved?” You think for a while and say, “Yes!” Then the man says, “Here is a lifejacket: put that on!” You put on that lifejacket, and the man pulls you to the bank of the canal and onto dry land.

Suppose you are in the water and about to drown. On the bank is a fireman ...

Savior “A” is the savior that is preached by the traditionalists. He is the savior who is available, who offers salvation, who has the means; but leaves it up to you to decide if you want to be saved.

Savior “B” is the Savior we find in the Scriptures. You are being saved, because the decision to save you was made by God before you were even born! It has nothing whatsoever to do with your will, but with *His!*

Our Lord cried out on the cross, “*It is accomplished*” (John 19:30). With that He showed that He is the “B”-type Savior – don’t ask: *act!*

Much of the idea behind the thought that Jesus is a type-“A” savior originates in the doctrine of the so-called “free will.” One way or another, one thinks that man has to add something to what already has been completely achieved.

Many people think that God, because He is Love, will go in conference with us about our salvation. This is not true. Have you ever seen a father who first starts to consult with his child who is in the water and about to drown? Or asks his child whether it wants to be saved? Of course not! He jumps right in and gets it

SAVIOR “B”

... who doesn’t hesitate for a moment. He takes off his uniform, and jumps in the water. With powerful strokes he swims towards you and grabs you. With you in his firm grip, he swims to the bank and brings you onto dry land.

back on the safe shore. God is no different! Love can be gentle, but when necessary, it acts – and how necessary it was! What God has done to save us, through the blood of Jesus Christ, is more than sufficient and needs *nothing extra*. When we think we need to do something, even as little as “accepting,” we deny that the work on the cross of Calvary was sufficient, and we downgrade Christ to be no more than a *possible savior*, who completely depends on our cooperation in order to save us, thereby, in a very real sense, giving us whereof to glory in the process of salvation. This is very wrong and contrary to Scripture!

In grace, through faith, are you saved, and this is not out of you; it is God’s approach present, not of works, lest anyone should be boasting. For His achievement are we, being created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God makes ready beforehand, that we should walk in them (Ephesians 2:8-10). ■



Flawed by Design

by — Martin Zender

(#6273) 75 pages, PB

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Think your sins are ruining God’s plan for your life?

Think again.



I'm loving the "Question & Answer" audios. Keep it up brother. Fantastic. – **Canada**

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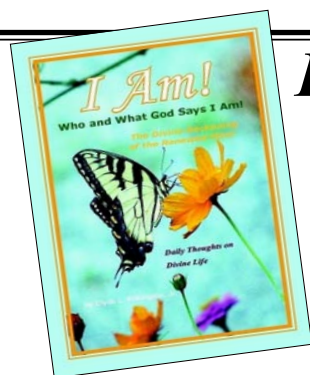
Thanks for all that you do; it is much appreciated! – **PA**

Thank you so much for your emails, especially the *Bible Students Notebook*. My wife and I enjoy reading them a lot and they have inspired many great conversations between us on God's Word. – **Canada**

Thanks a bunch for all you and your family do for us out here in keeping our hearts close to God and our eyes on Christ! – **IL**

After being surprised by a very unexpected and major surgery for stage III cancer, your book on *Suffering* was most welcome, putting a lot of things in perspective. – **WI**

I love the Bible studies you send out. The ones on God's sovereignty are just so wonderful. I and my family have been going through tremendous trials the last few years, seemingly insurmountable; yet I know Father lovingly designed them for our greater and ultimate good. Just lately, because of what I have been learning about Him, I have been able to thank Him for the pain and suffering and praise Him. What a miracle! What a turnaround in thinking! And how "foolish" I must appear to the world! But great peace He is giving me and mostly through the things He is teaching me through your work, Clyde. – **Australia**



I Am! Who and What God Says I Am!

*The Divine Reckoning of the Renewed Mind;
Daily Thoughts on Divine Life*

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

(#1737) 103 pp., PB, \$9.²⁵
(+ \$3.²⁵ s&h = \$13.²⁵)

People are always talking about their attempts to discover their true selves – of trying to "find themselves." The believer in the Lord Jesus Christ needs to find out who they *really* are. This doesn't need to be such a difficult search. All that is really needed is a careful look at the Scriptures, and a simple faith in the words of who and what God says we are. God knows who we are; all we need to do is to *believe Him*. This book catalogs the Divine Record of who and what God says that you are. It is a short encyclopedia of faith – the truth about you. It is the truth about you, simply because it is *God* Who has said it. God has spoken these truths concerning you – the *real* you. Believe His record! Refuse to be the shell of a person, pushed into a mold of Adamic conformity. Be the real you that God has uniquely designed you to be. Refuse to be bullied out of your divinely designed identity that our Father has given you.

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